

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, insert above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 03076115.9 filed April 15, 2003.--

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention--

On page 1, above line 12, insert--Background of the Invention--

Paragraph on line 12 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

--An example of such a pump plug is described in British patent specification No. 1 321 152. The known pump plug had been developed to provide a pump plug that could pass through a flowline having abrupt changes in diameter of the flow passage. To this end the known pump plug comprises a cylindrical body, a tubing of elastomeric material surrounding the body, and rigid fittings attached to the outer surface of the tubing, wherein the rigid fittings comprise a first series of segmental fittings spaced-apart around the centre of the body at right angles to its longitudinal axis and a second series of fitting, the fittings of the second series being elongate and each having one end in contact with a fitting of the first series. Furthermore an elongated fitting is situated adjacent a space between two fittings of the first series, and between every two elongated fittings adjacent a space there is arranged at least one other elongated fitting. The known pump plug's manufacture is relatively complicated because of the two series of fittings that have to be made separately and assembled so as to form a seal.

On page 1, delete line 30 and 31.

On page 2, delete lines 1-4.

On page 2, above line 5, insert--Summary of the Invention--

Paragraph on line 5 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

-- ~~To this end the~~ The pump plug for flowline operations according to the present invention comprises a resilient body and a flexible cage having a wear-resistant outer surface arranged around the resilient body, wherein the flexible cage comprises a tube having a first end and a second end, which tube is provided with a repeating pattern of slits closed at at least one end.--

On page 2, above line 12, insert--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 2, above line 24, insert--Detailed Description of the Invention--

Paragraph on line 24 of page 4, ending on line 2 of page 5, has been amended as follows:

--The slits 41, 42 and 43 form a repeating pattern of a first slit 41 a second 42 and a third slit 43. The first slit 41 is closed at both ends 6 and 7 of the tube 5a. The third slit 43 is aligned with the second slit 42. The second slit 42 and the third slit 43 are open at opposite ends of the tube 5a and closed in the middle of the tube 5a by connection elements 45. Between the slits 41 and 42 and 43 bars 15a are defined, wherein the bars 15a at either side of a first slit 41 are joined at their ends by connection elements 16a. The connection elements 45 and 16a may serve as dams. When the pump plug 1a is inserted in a flowline (not shown), the flexible cage 3a may serves as a sliding seal. The resilient cylindrical body 2a forms a static seal. --

Paragraph on line 6 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

--The repeating pattern of the slits 41, 42 and 43 is repeated in circumferential direction, so that the pattern is symmetrical about an axis 17a that is parallel to the central longitudinal axis 18 of the pump plug 1a. The repeating pattern of the slits 41, 42 and 43 ~~can~~ may be construed as a repetition of the pattern shown in Figure 2 in axial direction, wherein the pattern shown in Figure 2 is mirrored about a plane perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis 18. The intersection of the plane and the plane of drawing of Figure 2 is a dot and dash line referred to with reference numeral 46.--

Paragraph on line 17 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

-- It will be understood that the repeating pattern of the slits 41, 42 and 43 ~~can~~ may be repeated as well in axial direction, by mirroring the pattern shown in Figure 4 about a plane perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis 18. The intersection of the plane and the plane of drawing of Figure 4 is a dot and dash line referred to with reference numeral 47. The mirrored image of slit 41 is shown in dashed lines and referred to with reference numeral 41a. In this way the repeating pattern of the slits 41, 42 and 43 is extended in axial direction with its mirror image.--

Paragraph on line 28 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

-- The resilient cylindrical body (or the mantle) ~~can~~ may be made of a rubber, and the slits of the tube ~~can~~ may be filled with rubber that is vulcanised together with the rubber of the resilient body so as to form an integral part. --

Paragraph on line 32 of page 5, ending on line 2 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

--In order to obtain more radial resilience, the resilient cylindrical body (or the mantle) ~~can~~ may be provided with circumferential ridges. On these ridges the flexible cage is provided. The ridges may still prevent fluid from flowing along the pump plug.--

Paragraph on line 3 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

--The slits shown in the embodiments of the present invention discussed with reference to Figures 1-4 extend in axial direction, however, the slits ~~can~~ may as well be arranged under a sharp angle (less than 45°) with the central longitudinal axis of the pump plug.--

Paragraph on line 8 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

-- The slits are so formed that the bars 15 and 15a have a rectangular cross-section. Alternatively, the cross-section is may be in the form of a trapezium, wherein the shorter side points in to the resilient body. --

Paragraph on line 18 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

-- When needed more than one pump plug ~~can~~ may be used in series, or a resilient body ~~can~~ may be provided with more than one flexible cage. --

Paragraph on line 21 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

-- In order to increase the pressure exerted during normal operation of the outer surface of the flexible cage on the inner surface of a flowline, the pump plug shown in Figure 3 can may be provided with a tapering space between the rigid cylindrical body 2a and the mantle 2b that is closed at one end, so that pressurized fluid can enter under the mantle 2b. --

Paragraph on line 31 of page 6, ending on line 2 of page 7, has been amended as follows:

-- ~~The present~~ One embodiment of the invention provides a simple pump plug that is easy to manufacture because the flexible cage is made of a tube provided with labyrinth slits. The pump plug according to one embodiment of the present invention is easy to manufacture and does not have small parts that can be lost during operation. --

On page 8, above line 1, insert --We claim:--